

*Amendments to the Claims*

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1-49. (canceled)

50. (previously presented) A packaged diaper, comprising:

- (a) a sealed substantially air impermeable encasement completely enclosing an interior space with at least one airtight seal; and
- (b) a compressed absorbent diaper disposed within said interior space of said sealed substantially air impermeable encasement;
- (c) wherein said compressed absorbent diaper is unsoiled;
- (d) wherein, prior to packaging, said absorbent diaper has a nominal volume when unrestrained;
- (e) wherein, when disposed within said interior space of said sealed substantially air impermeable encasement, said compressed absorbent diaper has a reduced volume that is less than the nominal volume of said absorbent diaper when unrestrained prior to packaging;
- (f) wherein said compressed absorbent diaper is the only diaper disposed within said interior space of said sealed substantially air impermeable encasement;
- (g) wherein said interior space has at least a partial vacuum, whereby a pressure differential acts upon said encasement and said diaper to maintain said diaper in said compressed state, said encasement having been sealed after creation of at least a partial vacuum within said interior space of said encasement; and
- (h) wherein said compressed diaper disposed within said interior space of said sealed substantially air impermeable encasement includes a configuration that is different from a nominal configuration by at least a lengthwise fold in said diaper.

51. (previously presented) A packaged diaper that is vacuum-packed, comprising:
- (a) a sealed substantially air impermeable encasement completely enclosing an interior space;
  - (b) a compressible absorbent diaper disposed within said interior space of said sealed substantially air impermeable encasement;
  - (c) wherein said compressible absorbent diaper is unsoiled;
  - (d) wherein, prior to packaging, said compressible absorbent diaper has a nominal volume when unrestrained;
  - (e) wherein, when disposed within said interior space of said sealed substantially air impermeable encasement, said compressible absorbent diaper has a reduced volume that is less than the nominal volume of said compressible absorbent diaper when unrestrained prior to packaging;
  - (f) wherein said compressible absorbent diaper is the only diaper disposed within said interior space of said sealed substantially air impermeable encasement; and
  - (g) wherein the vacuum-packed diaper has three dimensions comprising a width, length, and height, and the sum of two of said three dimensions is less than 10 cm with no single dimension of said three dimensions exceeding 10 cm.
52. (currently amended) The packaged diaper of claim ~~42~~ 50, wherein said vacuum-packed diaper further comprises a tab that facilitates opening of said sealed substantially air impermeable encasement for release of said compressed absorbent diaper therefrom.
- 53-61. (canceled)
62. (currently amended) The packaged diaper of claim ~~42~~ 50, wherein said compressed diaper disposed within said interior space of said encasement has a foldedly reduced length and width each of which is less than about 1/2 of the nominal length and width, respectively, of said diaper.
63. (currently amended) The packaged diaper of claim ~~42~~ 50, wherein said compressed diaper disposed within said interior space of said encasement has a foldedly reduced length which is less than about 1/3 of the nominal length of said diaper.

64. (currently amended) The packaged diaper of claim ~~42~~ 50, wherein said compressed diaper disposed within said interior space of said encasement has a foldedly reduced length which is less than about 1/4 of the nominal length of said diaper.

65-72. (canceled)

73. (previously presented) A packaged diaper, comprising:

- (a) a sealed substantially air impermeable encasement completely enclosing an interior space with at least one airtight seal; and
- (b) a compressed absorbent diaper disposed within said interior space of said sealed substantially air impermeable encasement;
- (c) wherein said compressed absorbent diaper is unsoiled;
- (d) wherein, prior to packaging, said absorbent diaper has a nominal volume when unrestrained;
- (e) wherein, when disposed within said interior space of said sealed substantially air impermeable encasement, said compressed absorbent diaper has a reduced volume that is less than the nominal volume of said absorbent diaper when unrestrained prior to packaging;
- (f) wherein said interior space has at least a partial vacuum, whereby a pressure differential acts upon said encasement and said diaper to maintain said diaper in said compressed state, said encasement having been sealed after creation of at least a partial vacuum within said interior space of said encasement;
- (g) wherein said diaper disposed within said interior space of said sealed substantially air impermeable encasement includes a configuration that is different from a nominal configuration by at least a lengthwise fold in said diaper; and
- (h) wherein said packaged diaper is pocket sized.

74. (previously presented) A packaged diaper that is vacuum-packed, comprising:
- (a) a sealed substantially air impermeable encasement completely enclosing an interior space;
  - (b) a compressible absorbent diaper disposed within said interior space of said sealed substantially air impermeable encasement;
  - (c) wherein said compressible absorbent diaper is unsoiled;
  - (d) wherein, prior to packaging, said compressible absorbent diaper has a nominal volume when unrestrained;
  - (e) wherein, when disposed within said interior space of said sealed substantially air impermeable encasement, said compressible absorbent diaper has a reduced volume that is less than the nominal volume of said compressible absorbent diaper when unrestrained prior to packaging; and
  - (f) wherein the packaged, vacuum-packed diaper has three dimensions comprising a width, length, and height, and the sum of two of said three dimensions is less than 10 cm with no single dimension of said three dimensions exceeding 10 cm.
75. (canceled)
76. (previously presented) The packaged diaper of claim 74, wherein printed graphics on said diaper are viewable through said encasement.
77. (canceled)

78. (previously presented) A packaged diaper comprising:
- (a) a sealed substantially air impermeable encasement completely enclosing an interior space with at least one airtight seal; and
  - (b) a compressed absorbent diaper disposed within said interior space of said sealed substantially air impermeable encasement;
  - (c) wherein said compressed absorbent diaper is unsoiled;
  - (d) wherein said interior space has at least a partial vacuum, whereby a pressure differential acts upon said encasement and said diaper to maintain said diaper in said compressed state, said encasement having been sealed after creation of at least a partial vacuum within said interior space of said encasement; and
  - (e) wherein said diaper in said compressed state has three dimensions comprising a width, length, and height, and the sum of two of said three dimensions is less than 10 cm with no single dimension of said three dimensions exceeding 10 cm.
79. (new) The packaged diaper of claim 50, wherein printed graphics on said diaper are viewable through said encasement.

80. (new) A packaged diaper, comprising:
- (a) a sealed substantially air impermeable encasement completely enclosing an interior space with at least one airtight seal; and
  - (b) a compressed absorbent diaper disposed within said interior space of said sealed substantially air impermeable encasement;
  - (c) wherein said compressed absorbent diaper is unsoiled;
  - (d) wherein, prior to packaging, said absorbent diaper has a nominal configuration with a nominal width, nominal length, nominal height and nominal volume when unrestrained;
  - (e) wherein, when disposed within said interior space of said sealed substantially air impermeable encasement, said compressed absorbent diaper has a reduced volume that is less than the nominal volume of said absorbent diaper when unrestrained prior to packaging;
  - (f) wherein said compressed absorbent diaper is the only diaper disposed within said interior space of said sealed substantially air impermeable encasement;
  - (g) wherein said interior space has at least a partial vacuum, whereby a pressure differential acts upon said encasement and said diaper to maintain said diaper in said compressed state, said encasement having been sealed after creation of the partial vacuum within said interior space of said encasement; and
  - (h) wherein said compressed diaper disposed within said interior space of said sealed substantially air impermeable encasement includes a configuration that is different from said nominal configuration by at least one lengthwise or crosswise fold in said diaper; and
  - (i) wherein said diaper in said compressed state has three dimensions comprising a compressed width, compressed length, and compressed height with the compressed height of the diaper in its compressed state being approximately the same as the nominal height of the diaper in its nominal configuration
81. (new) The packaged diaper of claim 80, wherein said vacuum-packed diaper further comprises a tab that facilitates opening of said sealed substantially air impermeable encasement for release of said compressed absorbent diaper therefrom.

82. (new) The packaged diaper of claim 80, wherein said compressed diaper disposed within said interior space of said encasement has a foldedly reduced length and width each of which is less than about  $1/2$  of the nominal length and width, respectively, of said diaper.
83. (new) The packaged diaper of claim 80, wherein said compressed diaper disposed within said interior space of said encasement has a foldedly reduced length which is less than about  $1/3$  of the nominal length of said diaper.
84. (new) The packaged diaper of claim 80, wherein said compressed diaper disposed within said interior space of said encasement has a foldedly reduced length which is less than about  $1/4$  of the nominal length of said diaper.
85. (new) The packaged diaper of claim 80, wherein printed graphics on said diaper are viewable through said encasement.

86. (new) A packaged diaper, comprising:
- (a) a sealed substantially air impermeable encasement completely enclosing an interior space with at least one airtight seal; and
  - (b) a compressed absorbent diaper disposed within said interior space of said sealed substantially air impermeable encasement;
  - (c) wherein said compressed absorbent diaper is unsoiled;
  - (d) wherein, prior to packaging, said absorbent diaper has a nominal configuration with a nominal width, nominal length, nominal height and nominal volume when unrestrained;
  - (e) wherein, when disposed within said interior space of said sealed substantially air impermeable encasement, said compressed absorbent diaper has a reduced volume that is less than the nominal volume of said absorbent diaper when unrestrained prior to packaging;
  - (f) wherein said interior space has at least a partial vacuum, whereby a pressure differential acts upon said encasement and said diaper to maintain said diaper in said compressed state, said encasement having been sealed after creation of the partial vacuum within said interior space of said encasement;
  - (g) wherein said diaper disposed within said interior space of said sealed substantially air impermeable encasement includes a configuration that is different from said nominal configuration by at least one lengthwise or crosswise fold in said diaper;
  - (h) wherein said diaper in said compressed state has three dimensions comprising a compressed width, compressed length, and compressed height with the compressed height of the diaper in its compressed state being approximately the same as the nominal height of the diaper in its nominal configuration; and
  - (i) wherein said packaged diaper is pocket sized.
87. (new) The packaged diaper of claim 86, wherein said vacuum-packed diaper further comprises a tab that facilitates opening of said sealed substantially air impermeable encasement for release of said compressed absorbent diaper therefrom.



88. (new) The packaged diaper of claim 86, wherein said compressed diaper disposed within said interior space of said encasement has a foldedly reduced length and width each of which is less than about  $1/2$  of the nominal length and width, respectively, of said diaper.
89. (new) The packaged diaper of claim 86, wherein said compressed diaper disposed within said interior space of said encasement has a foldedly reduced length which is less than about  $1/3$  of the nominal length of said diaper.
90. (new) The packaged diaper of claim 86, wherein said compressed diaper disposed within said interior space of said encasement has a foldedly reduced length which is less than about  $1/4$  of the nominal length of said diaper.
91. (new) The packaged diaper of claim 86, wherein printed graphics on said diaper are viewable through said encasement.